

To the honorable members of the Public Health Committee and the General Assembly,

My name is Kenneth Speyer. I reside at 13 Audubon St., New Britain, CT. I have been a practicing attorney for 37 years, but my testimony is more personal than legal.

Last year my aunt Betty was hospitalized in California. She was in her late 80s. After discussion with her son (in his 60s), her doctors and others, she decided she had reached the end of a good life and did not wish to continue. She carried out her wish by refusing food. It was a slow way to die. It would have been more humane and dignified if she had been permitted, with her doctor's approval and appropriate legal safeguards, to affirmatively end her life on a date of her own choosing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kenneth Speyer